



# The Family Programs Flyer



DECEMBER 2010

OPERATION READY FAMILIES  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1. ISSUE 3



## Yellow Ribbon Events

### December 3-5

49th MP

40 ADT

DET 32

Fairfield, CA

### December 3-5

223rd FI

40th ADT

Los Alamitos, CA

### December 5

649th EN

Chico, CA

### December 11

163d RW

Garden Grove, CA

### December 17

870th MP CO

Pleasant Hill, CA

Visit [www.calguard.ca.gov/g1/YRRP/Pages/Registration.aspx](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/g1/YRRP/Pages/Registration.aspx) for more info.



## December We Care Meetings



### Thursday December 2

San Diego @ 7 pm

619-405-7190

### Friday December 10

Bakersfield @ 6 pm

559-217-9976

### Tuesday December 14

Chico @ 6:30 pm

530-513-0478

Sacramento @ 6:30 pm

916-416-8320

Santa Rosa @ 6:30 pm

707-974-8004

Fresno @ 6:30 pm

559-994-6102

### Tuesday December 21

Visalia @ 7 pm

559-217-9976

### Thursday December 9

Walnut Creek @ 6:30 pm

707-580-3319

### Saturday December 11

Escondido @ 12 Noon

619-405-7190

### Wednesday December 15

Bell @ 6 pm

213-503-4472

### Wednesday December 29

Los Alamitos @ 6 pm

562-254-6916

Paso Robles @ 6 pm

805-896-4029

San Bernardino @ 5 pm

909-801-9411

Ventura @ 7 pm

805-431-3866

### Thursday December 30

Stockton @ 6:30 pm

209-402-4114

Please Call to Confirm Date, Time, & Location of Meeting prior to Attending.

## December is full of Celebrations!

December 1<sup>st</sup> - Hanukkah begins at Sundown



Eat a Red Apple Day

National Pie Day

Rosa Parks Day

World AIDS Day



December 2<sup>nd</sup> - National Fritters Day

December 3<sup>rd</sup> - International Day of the Disabled Person

December 4<sup>th</sup> - National Cookie Day



Wear Brown Shoes Day

December 7<sup>th</sup> - Pearl Harbor Day



National Cotton Candy Day



December 8<sup>th</sup> - National Brownie Day

December 10<sup>th</sup> - Human Rights Day



December 12<sup>th</sup> - Poinsettia Day



December 13<sup>th</sup> - HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE

NATIONAL GUARD!!



National Cocoa Day



December 16<sup>th</sup> - National Chocolate Covered Anything Day

December 17<sup>th</sup> - National Maple Syrup Day

Underdog Day



December 18<sup>th</sup> - Wear a Plunger on Your Head Day

December 19<sup>th</sup> - Oatmeal Muffin Day



December 21<sup>st</sup> - Humbug Day



Look on the Brightside Day

National Flashlight Day



December 23<sup>rd</sup> - Roots Day

December 24<sup>th</sup> - National Egg Nog Day

December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day



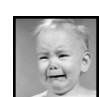
National Pumpkin Pie Day



December 26<sup>th</sup> - Kwanzaa Begins

Boxing Day (in the UK)

National Whiner's Day



December 27<sup>th</sup> - Visit the Zoo Day

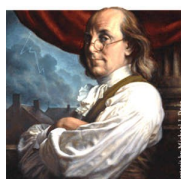


December 28<sup>th</sup> - Card Playing Day



National Chocolate Day

December 31<sup>st</sup> - New Year's Eve



"Joy is not in THINGS, it is in US"

- Benjamin Franklin

For more information about anything in this newsletter please call 1-800-449-9662 or visit

[www.jointservicessupport.org](http://www.jointservicessupport.org) & [www.calguard.ca.gov/readyfamilies](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/readyfamilies)

Edited by: Sylwia A Flaga





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## A Soldier's Hike for Heros

### 7000 Miles Across America for Military Families in Need

Iraq War Veteran Troy Yocum is hiking 7,000 miles across America, banging his drum and sounding the call for \$5 million to help Military Families in need.

With Emmie the SuperDog by his side, Troy took the first step of his quest on April 17, 2010. They have since completed the western leg of the journey, all the way from Kentucky to California on Veterans Day and have started walking



back east through Southern California, Arizona, and New Mexico.

The journey will take 16 months and pass through 31 states and 38 large cities. Troy has to average over 20 miles a day while enduring seasons. His mission is to further spread the word that our American Heroes are fighting just as hard at home as they do

overseas. He hopes to provide a peace of mind and lay the foundation for Military Families in need to succeed. Troy is literally putting one foot in front of the other, crossing the great states of America to reach people and help spread the importance of helping our Military Families. To track SPC Yocum's progress, see where he'll be next, or donate, visit: <http://drumhike.com>

## Help Save Lives! Participate in Operation Light Saber

4 Wheel Parts, "Your truck and Jeep accessory superstore," will match every dollar donated and pay shipping costs to send bright off road lights to Soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq.

*Brighter lights help them see dangerous IED's before they can do harm.*

Visit: [www.4wheelparts.com/bravo](http://www.4wheelparts.com/bravo) to donate any amount.

## ISFAC is back!

9 am - Bakersfield, CA

Tuesday December 7, 2010



An Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee (ISFAC) is a voluntary military cooperative partnership organized to provide multi-service networking for training and assistance to ensure Total Force Family Readiness. Its purpose is to provide assistance to Families regardless of service component.



**MCEC**  
**Training**  
**December**

TCI - Transition Counselor Institute - Phase 1

5480 Grand Pacific Drive

Carlsbad, CA 92008

8 am - 4 pm

Dec. 1 - 2, 2010

LINN - Living in the New Normal Practicum

"Helping Children Thrive in Good and Challenging Times"

O'Club, Bld. 1573

29 Palms, CA 92278

8 am - 4 pm

December 7, 2010



## Giving At-risk Youth a Second Chance...

One of the most at-risk populations in the United States is the growing number of youth who have dropped out of school. To confront this major social problem, the National Guard Bureau has created a youth intervention program for these young adults to gain the discipline and life skills necessary to be productive members of their communities and society. "The Youth ChalleNGe" program is for individuals 16 to 18 years old; its goal is to educate young adults through a non-traditional, military-structured learning environment that addresses life, leadership, and academic skills while improving self-esteem, pride, and confidence.

Through this FREE 22 week residential charter high school program, students may: earn 55 high school credits, get their CHSPE, GED, or high school diploma. Program starts in January and deadline to apply is

**December 5, 2010 - Visit: [www.ngycp.org/](http://www.ngycp.org/)**

## Do YOU need help prepping for college?

### Take advantage of this opportunity!

eKnowledge honors Servicemembers and their Families by donating SAT and ACT College Test Preparation Software to Military Families worldwide. In alliance with the DoD and supported by NFL/MLB players, eKnowledge is donating SAT/ACT PowerPrep™ Programs, valued at \$200 to military Servicemembers and their Families.

About the SAT/ACT PowerPrep™ Programs: The SAT and ACT PowerPrep™ software comes in a single DVD and includes more than 11 hours of Virtual Classroom instruction and 3,000 files of supplemental test prep material. Thousands of interactive diagnostic tools, sample questions, practice tests, and graphic teaching illustrations are indexed for easy use.

Who is Eligible to Receive the Donated Software? Eligible recipients include Servicemembers from all branches of the military who are active duty, retired, Veterans, Guard, Reserve, DOD employees, and civilians performing military support. Also eligible are relatives and dependants of anyone who otherwise qualifies from the prior list.

**To Place an Order:** [www.eknowledge.com/Liberty](http://www.eknowledge.com/Liberty) or call 951-256-4076.

**For further info contact:** Lori Caputo at 951-256-4076 or [LoriCaputo@eknowledge.com](mailto:LoriCaputo@eknowledge.com)

**\*\*There is a nominal charge of \$13.84 per standard program (+s/h) for the cost of materials, processing, registration, and customer support. eKnowledge does not profit from this venture.\*\***

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## December Spotlight on... Family Readiness Support Assistant: Gracelyn Hapenney



Ms. Gracelyn Hapenney began working with the 40th Infantry Division in Los Alamitos as its Family Readiness Support Assistant (FRSA) in April 2008. FRSAs work directly for Brigade Commanders; their main objective is to provide Commanders, Rear Detachment Commanders, Military Point of Contacts, and Family Readiness Group Volunteers with administrative assistance in support of Family readiness programs. Gracelyn is one of nine FRSAs within California.

Having relocated from Hawaii (the Aloha! state) to southern California just two years ago, Gracelyn Hapenney had yet to realize at the time that her three years of FRG volunteer experience (for the 93<sup>rd</sup> Civil Support Team Weapons of Mass Destruction) would be the driving force behind her significant role with the 40<sup>th</sup> ID. She just knew she wanted to continue to help others like she had while residing in her home state of Hawaii. Gracelyn's exemplary execution of her position shows in many ways, including improvement of battalion and unit morale; recruitment and sustainment of FRG volunteers; and in unison with strong FRG systems, the successful deployments of the 40<sup>th</sup> ID Agribusiness Development Team & 1-144 Field Artillery. Gracelyn started out with merely a handful of very dedicated FRG volunteers in her brigade, now the 40<sup>th</sup> ID boasts 30 FRG volunteers including a Division FRG Volunteer, a Child & Youth Program Volunteer, and a Treasurer.

Gracelyn is relentless in her pursuits and continues daily to be a passionate advocate of the California Army National Guard Family Readiness Program. The holiday season is the busiest time for Operation Ready Families, and Gracelyn has once again partnered with local community organizations, individuals, and volunteers to continue the holiday benevolence programs associated with Families as well as single Soldiers of the 40<sup>th</sup> ID. Last year, over seventy southern California Military Families and single Soldiers were sponsored holiday meals, baskets, and gifts. This year, Gracelyn hopes to exceed last year's gracious donations.

Gracelyn's charismatic personality and "aloha" are the motivation that gets her through the hectic days of work and life. She is a proud military spouse, married happily for five years to SSG Keith Hapenney of 9th CST WMD. They have two wonderful children; Kylan, 10, who loves to play the ukulele and Austin, 4 months old, who loves to talk, just like his mommy.

Gracelyn loves what she does, and it shows in her work. In Hawaii, she planned vacations professionally for six years, and in her spare time volunteered at her husband's unit because that was her true passion. And now she contributes every day to her brigade's Family Readiness Program by helping others, and supporting Service Members and their Families. Gracelyn is now "living the dream!"

### A special message from Gracelyn:

"I would like to thank everyone within the CARNG organization, chain of command, and my Family who have supported and provided me with guidance. I couldn't do this all without you all! Mahalo Nui Loa." – Ms. Gracelyn Hapenney



## CALLING ALL WOULD-BE VOLUNTEERS!

### Are you interested in:

*Helping Families become more knowledgeable and self reliant?*

*Promoting Guard Member and Family Readiness?*

*Developing support systems for children and youth?*

*Contributing to the wellbeing and esprit de corps of Unit Members?*

### **Then consider becoming a Volunteer!**

Contact Senior Family Readiness Support Assistant Ms. Bonnie Bogges at: [bonnie.bogges@us.army.mil](mailto:bonnie.bogges@us.army.mil)

or Senior Family Readiness Support Assistant Ms. Judy Shannon at: [judy.shannon@us.army.mil](mailto:judy.shannon@us.army.mil)



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